

rear portions thereof having a common, straight, horizontal, lower edge, and the front portion thereof being disposed generally forwardly and downwardly from a forward terminus of said lower edge;

(b) a forwardly inclined nose panel [mounted] disposed between and attached to lower edges of the front portions of the side panels, and having horizontal leading and trailing edges;

(c) an upper cowl [mounted] disposed between and attached to the side panels, said upper cowl having a substantially vertical, front portion terminating at a forward edge that engages an upper surface of the nose panel, and having a rearwardly-extending, upwardly inclined portion terminating at a rear edge;

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(d) a lower cowl [mounted] disposed between and attached to the side panels below the upper cowl, and having a substantially vertical, front portion and rearwardly-extending, substantially horizontal, central and rear portions, said front portion terminating in a horizontal forward edge disposed above the trailing edge of the nose panel;

(e) a pair of vertical side skirts, each of said skirts being movable between a first, lowered position and a second, raised position;

(f) means attached to the [side panels] hood for suspending a side skirt from each of the side panels; and

(g) means attached to the [side panels] hood for moving the hood between a retracted position and a working position directly over and straddling the saw blade;

wherein the side panels, upper cowl, lower cowl, and side skirts are made of a rigid, transparent material, and whereby, when the hood is in a working position, movement of a work piece rearward against a lower surface of the nose panel first causes the hood to rise, and thereafter, with further rearward movement of the work piece, causes the trailing edge of the nose panel and the side skirts to rest on and make sliding contact with an upper surface of the work piece until the work piece has cleared the nose panel, whereafter the hood drops down to a position such that the trailing

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edge of the nose panel rests upon the worktable while the side skirts continue to maintain sliding contact with the upper surface of the work piece until the entire work piece has cleared the side skirts, whereupon the side skirts also drop down to the worktable, and whereby further, air enters the hood through an intake opening defined by the rear portions of the side panels and the rear portion of the lower cowl, thence streams forward over the work piece and saw blade and through an orifice defined by the forward edge of the lower cowl, the trailing edge of the nose panel and the front portions of the side panels, and thereafter is conducted rearwardly between an upper surface of the lower cowl and a lower surface of the upper cowl to exit the hood.

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2. (twice amended) The hood of claim 1, wherein the saw includes a splitter having a portion that extends above the rear side of the worktable, and the [pivot] means for moving the hood between a retracted position and a working position directly over and straddling the saw blade is attached to the side panels of the hood and is mounted to the splitter, and further comprising:

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(a) a rear discharge wall mounted between an upper surface of a central portion of the lower cowl and the rear edge of the upper cowl, said rear discharge wall having an air discharge hole; and

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(b) [means for attachment of a] vacuum conduit attachment means [, said means attached] mounted to a rear surface of said rear discharge wall and aligned with said air discharge hole.

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7. (once amended) The hood of claim [1,] 2, 3, 4, [5,] or 6, wherein the [pivot] means for attached to the splitter for moving the hood between a retracted position and a working position directly over and straddling the saw blade comprises a single pivot attachment of the hood to the splitter, whereby the hood is rotatable about a horizontal axis, and wherein further, each of the side skirts has a substantially vertical slot, and the means for suspending each side skirt from the side panel adjacent thereto comprises:

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(a) a slot pin, said pin being attached to and extending laterally outward from said side panel and through said slot;